

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency  
Washington, DC 20250

**Notice CONOP-14**

**For:** State and County Offices

**Streamlining Conservation Programs in the  
Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002**

**Approved by:** Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

*Bradley Karmen*

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**1 Overview**

**A**

**Background**

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (the Act) revised and provided additional acreage limitation for CRP and funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Workload for both FSA and NRCS is expected to increase significantly as a result of the Act.

On June 12, 2002, the Secretary announced streamlining changes to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of CRP and EQIP implementation.

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**B**

**Purpose**

This notice informs State and County Offices of changes made to streamline the administration of CRP and EQIP.

Information about assignment of new conservation programs authorized by the Act to FSA or NRCS will be issued in a future notice.

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**C**

**Consultation**

NRCS at the National level has been consulted and has concurred with the contents of this notice.

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<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
October 1, 2002	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices, State Forestry, and NRCS State Offices

## Notice CONOP-14

### 2 Changes in CRP Administration

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#### A

##### **FSA Responsibility**

FSA will continue to perform all CRP responsibilities currently assigned to the agency.

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#### B

##### **NRCS Responsibility**

Effective immediately, CRP concurrence has been streamlined. NRCS consultation is required at the National level only.

NRCS will continue to be among the providers of technical assistance for CRP.

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### 3 Changes in EQIP Administration

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#### A

##### **Concurrence**

Effective immediately, concurrence is no longer required in administration of EQIP. FSA consultation is required at the National level only.

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#### B

##### **NRCS Responsibilities**

The following program responsibilities previously performed by FSA County Committees (COC's) shall be performed by NRCS including, but not limited to:

- selecting applications for plan development
- approving contracts and contract modifications
- determining violations of contract terms
- determining to terminate contracts, including whether to waive refunds and liquidated damages, if applicable.

NRCS will also continue to perform EQIP responsibilities currently assigned to the agency.

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### 3 Changes in EQIP Administration (Continued)

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#### C

##### **FSA Responsibilities**

FSA will continue to provide administrative services for EQIP under reimbursable agreement.

COC members and CED's remain members of the Local Work Group and are expected to participate. A member of the State Committee and SED or designee remain members of the State Technical Committee and are expected to participate.

In planning workload, State and County Offices may participate, as determined appropriate by SED, in NRCS training sessions to implement EQIP provisions of the Act which require the expenditure of administrative funds.

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#### D

##### **Transfer Procedures**

Procedure for transferring existing EQIP contracts from FSA to NRCS is expected to be issued in a future notice.

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### 4 Action

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#### A

##### **State Office Action**

State Offices shall immediately provide a copy of this notice to County Offices, COC's, and NRCS State Offices.

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#### B

##### **County Office Action**

County Offices shall immediately provide a copy of this notice to local NRCS offices.

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